(26)

A Letter from Rotterdam, *touching the* Scotch *Affaires, ſince* November, 1650.

SIR, Since my Arrivall heere, it hath beene my good hap to gaine a cleare confirmation of the truth of that Aſſertion, that it never was in the intentions of the Presbyterian Scots to have *Charles* the 2. for their King, and that you may alſo bee confirmed in the Aſſurance thereof, I ſhall preſume to offer to your more ſerious conſideration this ſhort view of ſome of their Actions ſince *November* laſt.

As firſt, the ſtrange rendition of the Caſtle of *Edenborough*, the ſtrongeſt hold in all the Kingdome; whether out of cowardice or covetouſneſſe, I diſpute not; ſure I am out of no neceſſity, the ſtores of Proviſions, Armes, and Ammunition (if Relations bee true) being almoſt incredible. Then the many ſecret Plots and Deſignes they have put in practice, for the more cleanely betraying into the Enemies hand, the Towne and Caſtle of *Sterling*, and *Burnt Eland*, thoſe two principall Keies or faſtneſſes of *Fife* and *Stragherne*, all which God in mercy hath hitherto fruſtrated, to the Enemies diſheartning, and the Actors confuſion. I ſhall not neede to mention how heartily the Presbyterian entertained *Ker* and *Straghernes* Declaration, with thoſe in the Weſt of *Scotland*, though founded upon Independent Principles, and purporting little leſſe then renunciation of Monarchy: Or what cunning tricks they uſed for putting off the Kings Coronation, ambitious ſtill to keepe the Reines of Government in their owne hands, and curbe

92 (26)

His Sacred Majesty in His Exercise of his Regall Power, by enslaving Him to the unreasonable Articles hee was forced to condiscend unto at *Breda*? Or how violently they opposed all Agreement with the Royall Party, openly protesting against it, and secretly fomenting Divisions amongst them, till through Gods blessing, in despite of all their Machinations, Loyaltie prevailed, and increased so fast, as in a short space to overpower those Machivillian Kirk-lings; whose guilt of conscience, hourely pursued with just feares, affrighted them quickly to decline His Majesties Mercy and Goodnesse, and seeke for shelter and protection from the Enemies of their King and Countrie. As for particulars I referre you to the weekely Newes-Bookes; hee that will but waste so much time and paines as to peruse those Pamphlets, may soone observe all these, and many more, and more mischievous Presbyterian Practices, then heere are related.

But not to insist on such petty proofes; a more convincing Argument wee have in that right Presbyterian, and (without offence to so Sacred a Solemnity bee it spoken) sordid maner of Crowning their King on New-Yeares Day, 1650. For whether wee looke upon it in any of those Circumstances of Time, Place, Persons, or Ceremonies, the Presbyterian baseneſſe is most clearely to be discerned thereby.

As for the Time, the Nobility, Gentry, and Commons of that Kingdome, having long groaned under the cruell oppressions of Kirke and State-Committees, were ready to shake off that Iron Yoke, and recover againe their Ancient Lawes and Liberties, under the Golden and Gentle Scepter of Monarchy, wherein their Forefathers

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for many generations had happily enjoyd so great Peace and plenty; this the Presbyterian perceiving, for feare lest the Royall Party should grow strong enough to set the Crowne on the Kings Head without them, they resolve to doe it themselves, making this advantage of the time, still to ensnare His Sacred Majesty with the bonds of the Covenant, and limit His Royal Prerogative, ere the Nobility and Gentry could have free accesse to Court, or the Army come to a Generall Randevouz.

The Place: the most Prophane and Sacrilegious place in all Christendome, a dining Chamber, (no Consecrated Chappell) where the Belly is the onely God that is worshipped: To shew the Presbyterians that are so stiffe in observing of difference of Time, the Sanctifying of the Sabboth, *&c.* make no difference of places, but a Barne, a Stable, or a Dining Roome, is a place good enough for their Solemn Assemblies.

Then the most Sacrilegious Place: 'Tis confessed, the Abbey and Church of *Schone* hath beene famous all the World over, aswell for the Marble Chaire, wherein the Kings of *Scotland* Anciently had their Crownes set on their Heads; as for the Monuments and Tombes of those Pious Princes, whose Sacred Dust was there religiously preserved; but since Sacriledge entred the World under the cloake of Reformation, that Abbey hath been dissolved, and out of the Ruines of that Beauteous Church, was erected this Palace of *Schone*, the Walls built with the Stones of that Church and Abbey, the Chimney-pieces and Pavements framed out of the Marble Tombes and Grave Stones of those dead Kings. This His Majesties Father (of Blessed Memory) perceiving when hee was invited to a Feast by the Nobleman

that is owner of that house, Hee refused to eate and drinke in so Sacrilegious a place: Yet this was picked out by the Presbyterian for the solemnizing *Charles* the Seconds Coronation, as if betimes they would season him with that cursed thirst after things dedicated to Holy Uses, and invest the Crowne with the spoiles of the Churches Patrimony, which his Blessed Father so much abhorred, that himselfe professed he had rather live of the Churches Almes, as some of his Predecessors had done, then violently take the bread out of Bishops and Ministers mouthes; and by such Sacrilegious Rapines, as the Covenanting Presbyters gaped after, bring a brand and curse upon His Posterity by robbing God and his Church of what the bounty of His Ancestors had enriched it withall, for encouragement of Learning and Religion.

ix. Βασιλ. ap. 4.

The Persons and solemnities likewise were suitable: No Bishop to annoint him, and pronounce the benediction at the setting the Crowne on his Head, nor Nobleman to present the *Regalia*; though for these thousand yeares the like president never was known in *Scotland*; where the Nobility ever counted it an Ensigne of Honour and loyaltie to attend their Kings Coronation, and behold his sacred Person inaugurated with all due solemnities: his Anointing and benediction to be performed by a Bishop, as in all other parts of the Christian world, Kings have been ever since Christianity prevaild over the Thrones of Princes; not without a sacred pattern of *Samuels* Anoynting *Saul* and *David* by Gods own appointmẽt. And in the Age by-past this Ceremony was thought so Religiously necessary, that *John Knox* with his contemporary Presbyters (I am sure no friends to needles

needles Ceremonies) ſent purpoſely for the Biſhop of *Aberdeen* (who had received his Conſecration from the Pope) to Annoint King *James*, even in his Cradle, that his Coronation might not be defective in ſuch a Ceremony, whoſe name and Authority they abus'd, not only to oppoſe, but to impriſon Queen *Mary* his mother, and force her to reſigne up the Crowne into her Sons hands, that ſo themſelves (the prevailing Faction) might Rule and Raigne as Kings during his minority. Thus whileſt it ſerves their owne ends, the Presbyter is ſtiffe for this Ceremony in the Grandfathers daies, but now as regardleſſe of it in the Grandchild: *Charles* the 2. is to bee Crown'd without any ſuch Royall or Religious Ceremony; upon deſigne doubtleſſe, as well to deveſt him of that *Jus Sanguinis*, that hereditary right of Succeſſion, which doth immortallize Princes here on Earth, and make their Names and Office (like his whoſe Vicegerents they are, and whoſe Image they beare) eternall to all generations: as alſo to render him the peoples Creature and ſervant, as if his Crowne and dignity had been the peoples gift, and not his owne by Birthright; as if his Power had beene derivative from his Subjects, and not Gods Ordinance, and as naturall over them, as a Fathers over his children: in a word, that his firſt Title might be *Carolus Electione Populi*: not *Carolus Dei Gratia*. For this purpoſe they had prepared three Lay-Kirk-men, and three Kirk-Lay-men to performe the Office of the Biſhop; my meaning is, three Presbyters of their own Brooding under their Claſſes, not of Epiſcopall Ordination; and three Ruling Elders; theſe laſt acting their parts in a double capacity: for firſt they ſtand for Repreſenters of the People, and

Commissioners of the Representative Body, the Parliament; and next for Assisting Elders of the Kirke.

Thus Presbytery, which was ever good at deposing and usurping upon Kings, hath at last (and may it prove the last) set the Crowne on their Kings Head, more in mockery (if without an ill Omen I may borrow that similitude, as the Souldiers Crown'd our Saviour a little before his Crucifixion;) than out of any true intention: For the Crowne they put upon his Head, though it were of gold, yet was it debas'd by the Covenant, and rob'd of the choicest Flowers wherewith it was wont to be adorn'd, His Royall Prærogatives, those individuall and unforfeitable Enfignes of Soveraignty.

The Sword they gave him, though it had a specious outside, yet it seem'd rather of Wood than Steele, the Edge being blunted, by taking from him the Militia, and depriving him of the power of the Sword, either for offence, by doing justice upon malefactors, or for defence against Forreigne Invasion, or home-bred Rebellion.

Lastly, the Scepter they put into his hand was but a Mock-Scepter, being divested of the Supreame Power, which is the very Essence, or *Formalis ratio* of Majestie; for by the Articles of *Breda* they had reserved that Power to themselves, tying him up to act nothing without or contrary to the advice of Parliament and Assembly; nor to denie his Assent to any thing that should be represented by them, or resolv'd on in their Committees of Kirke and State.

Thus had the Presbyterians muzled their Lion, and at his first step into the Throne, throwne down his Soveraign Majestie, had not the great God, *by whom Kings reigne,*

reigne, gratiously upheld his servant; and in a short space restor'd him to that height of Honour and Dignitie, which those Varlets sought to keep him from: For soon after his Coronation, the Nobilitie and Gentrie, for many years having been oppres'd by severall Factions in their turns, for the future to prevent all Faction, and unite the whole Kingdome against the Common Enemy, they resolve forthwith to restore His Majestie to all his just Prærogatives, and no longer to suffer Committees either of Kirke or State to Lord it over them: the jealousies of the two grand Factions of the Kingdome, the *Hamiltonian*, and *Argylian* gave life to this Resolution; who not more ambitious of, than envious at each others greatnesse, chose, rather than submit to the commands of their equalls or inferiours, to set up the King, and to yield obedience to one King, rather than many Kings; for which very cause, *The Beasts of the Forrest* once *made choyce of the Lyon for their King*.

By this means in the month of *January* that glorious *Sun* began to mount higher and higher in the *Zodiack* of Majestie and Soveraignitie; and quickly warm'd with its bright beams, the hearts of his languishing Subjects into the love of Loyaltie and Regall Government; for which they now praise God that had sent them a King, under whose protection they might bee freed from the tyranny and oppression of their fellow subjects.

But about the 5. of *February* this glorious *Sun* appeared brighter and brighter, when that free Parliament began to sit, which ashamed longer to deprive their King of the libertie to use his Reason with a good Conscience, admitted him to the power of his Negative Voice, and put him into the possession of his just Rights, whilst the

Kirke

Kirke Assembly at the same time met at St. *Andrew* perplex themselves with hot disputes touching His Majesties Authoritie in Ecclesiasticals, and other private quarrels of their owne, rather than endeavour to compose differences, and submit to the Kings supreame power over all persons, and in all Causes spirituall and temporall; His Majestie not much minding their Disputes, nor they carefull to tender their due respects to him, till those contentions ended, and that Assembly dissolv'd suddenly, through the hot alarum given about this time by the English Forces, who sent a strong party to crosse the *Forth* above *Sterling*, whilest the maine Body fac'd *Sterling* it selfe; and other parties were sent by Sea to make some attempt upon *Burnt Eland*, and *Fife-Nesse*. I shall not need to expresse the losses the Enemy sustain'd in those severall places: Though your *Mercury's*, whose brib'd breath dares publish naught but Victories, conceale the particulars; yet the Dutch Gazets talke of thousands of the English kil'd, and of their disorderly Retreat, and unseasonable mutiny of the Souldiery for want of pay, and hard duty, which begat a debate, whether *Fairfax* his Counsell had not been more prudently follow'd, rather to stand upon defence, than invade a Countrey where they were to fight with two such potent Enemies, as Hunger, and Cold.

Sir, I can assure you, the *Scots*, since their Kings Coronation, magnifie Gods providence, in blessing them wonderfully beyond their deserts, aswell in the discovery of some mens Treasons against his Majesties Person, and the Treachery of others that sought to betray *Sterling*, and *Brunt Eland* into the Enemies hand; as also in repulsing Gen. *Cromwels* Forces, which have endeavoured

red often and by ſundry Stratagems to land men in *Fife*; but chiefly for that great piece of providence, by ſending in unexpectedly to their relief, 3 Engliſh Ships laden with proviſions and Arms for the ſupply of the Engliſh Army; and for the caſting away of foure Engliſh Merchants Ships and their Convoy at the Towne of *Are*: And further, this you may take upon the aſſurance of an authentick witnes, that the Scots King himſelf, under his own hand very lately ſignified to his friends here, that he is in no inconſiderable condition, having already a very gallant Army of 36000. horſe and Foot well appointed. This news hath much encouraged the Engliſh Cavaliers in theſe parts, and ſtir'd them up to furniſh themſelves with all neceſſaries fit for his Majeſties ſervice, inſomuch that about the end of *February* 12. ſayle of Ships, convoy'd by two men of War, went from the *Brill* in *Holland* towards the North of *Scotland*, ſtor'd with all ſorts of Proviſions, Arms and Ammunition, many Volunteers, and good ſtore of Horſes.

I had like to forgot one obſervation worth your noting, that whileſt the King was under the tuition of the Scots Presbytery, they would not afford him the freedome to ſpeak or write to any of his friends; all Letters either ſent by his Majeſtie or directed to him, they intercepted and opened: and the only uſe they made of his Royall Hand and Authoritie, tended ever to his diſhonour, and ofttimes to the deſtruction of himſelfe and his party in the three Kingdomes; for proofe of this I ſhall call to witneſſe his Proclamations publiſht in *Auguſt* laſt; his peremptory command for disbanding *Middleton* and his friends in the North, his declaring that party in *Ireland* Traytors, who fought daily againſt

the State of *England*; his revoking the Commissions granted to the Marquesse of *Ormond*, Lord *Inchequeen*, and many others of that Nation, that were to act by Sea and Land; and lastly, his recalling all Commissions granted to divers of the English Nobilitie and Gentrie; in order to some action and designs then plotted against the Kingdome of *England*: all which is sufficient to shew the Presbyterian is no *Changeling*; Kings must be their Subjects and they themselves Kings, or else there is no living amongst them. And that you may see how much the Kingdome of *Scotland* hath groan'd under the Rigidnesse of Presbytery, I shall acquaint you with a few Grieveances, which of late have been represented to the King and his Counsell, by the Commons, with an earnest desire, and hope of redresse.

Grievances against the *Scots* Presbytery.

1. *Their Usurping a power over all Secular and Military Affairs; for if by the major part in Parliament a Law be enacted contrary to their mindes, they presently excommunicate the Members for sitting and Voting in that Parliament: for this very cause Duke* Hamilton, *Earle of* Lyndsay, *Earle of* Dumfernling, Lauderdaile, *and divers others of the Nobility were forc'd to doe pennance: and if any man else yield obedience to such statute enacted without their approbation, he is immediately brought to the Stoole of Repentance; witnesse all those that levied Horse or money for the use of Duke* Hamiltons *Army, or did serve under his command.*

2. *Their taking cognizance of things done in another Kingdome, and beyond Seas: an honest man was forced to doe pennance for drinking in a womans house at* Campheere *in* Zealand, *who had been Excommunicated formerly by the Presby-*

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tery of Aberdeen; likewiſe many others have been Excommunicated, and conſtrain'd to doe penance for bearing Armes in England under Duke Hamilton.

3. Their defaming of Perſons of Honour, and other particular Perſons in their Pulpits; as alſo their publiſhing defamatory Declarations, to the ſcandall of Religion, and contempt of Monarchy.

4. Their ſecret ſubornation of children and ſervants to accuſe and betray their Parents and Maſters for words ſpoken in their Bed-chambers and private houſes; there is ſcarce a conſiderable Family in all the Kingdome, where they have not by one means or other ſet a ſpy upon them.

5. Their wreſting out of the hands of the Nobility and Gentry the Patronages of all Eccleſiaſticall Livings, whereby they have occaſion'd great corruption and diviſions among the Clergy, inſomuch that in ſome places Churches have lyen voyd without any Miniſter two or three years, to the eternall prejudice of the peoples ſouls.

6. Their cruell interdicting of Churches; in one County, Atholl by name, 5 Churches were interdicted 3 years together, no Miniſter ſuffered to Preach or pray amongſt the people all that time, nor to adminiſter Sacraments, whereby many children dyed unbaptiſed.

7. Their uſurping an Arbitrary power over the ſouls of men, every Miniſter taking upon him to debar whom he pleaſe, even the beſt man of the Pariſh from the Sacrament, and their denying Baptiſme to the Children of Malignants.

8. Their covetous increaſing their owne ſtipends in all Corporations, procuring the State to lay an impoſition of 3 d. Exciſe upon every Scotch pinte of Wine to be payd to the Miniſter of the Pariſh, making every houſe to pay the 12. penny, according to the utmoſt rack'd Rent, which is 20 d. per pound.

Sir, All the effect these grievances produced at that conjuncture of time, was, That the King and His Councell thought it not fit to make the breach wider, or increase Divisions amongst His Subjects, onely for the present the Clergy were commanded not to intermeddle in Civill or Military Affaires; but to preach to the people obedience to His Majesties Authority, and Unity and Peace one amongst another: Yet in the opinion of wise men, if things should settle that way, the Presbytery of SCOTLAND would be refined and made conformable to these in HOLLAND: For as your Reformers did in the beginning call for a Moderate Episcopacy; so the whole cry of the Scots Nation is, for a Moderate Presbytery, which in time will end in JOHN KNOX his Government, whose designe was to place Superintendents in every County: The Nobility and Gentry of that Kingdome, as well as yours, cannot endure to heare of the restoring of Episcopacy, for feare their Sacrilegious Titles to the Churches Lands should once more be called in question.

As I was closing my Letter, this certaine Intelligence I received, That the Scots King, having secured all the passes and landing places in FIFE, and quelled the CLASSIS of STERLING, who declared against Him and His Party, is lately gone to suppresse the like Faction which the CLASSIS of ABERDEEN hath countenanced to the great prejudice and safety of that part of the Kingdome. In His absence Duke HAMILTON commands the Southerne Army, who endeavours dayly to try his friends in levying Forces in the West of SCOTLAND. Here we expect some Scotch Nobleman, as an Ambassador from the Scotch King for that Kingdome, and the Report is, the Lord GERARD hath a Commission sent him to bee His Embassador for the Kingdome of ENGLAND. I have no more roome to write, but onely to subscribe my selfe,

Your most humble servant.

From Rotterdam
10. *March.* 1650.